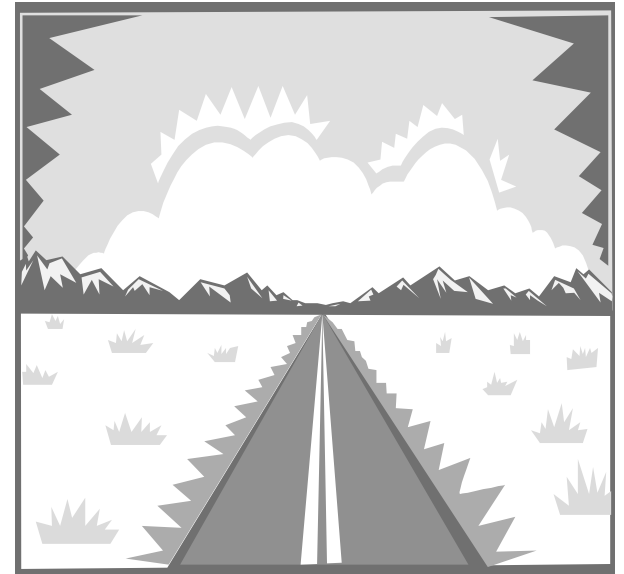


Questions?

If you have any questions or comments about our pavement preservation program, please call Kelly Jones in Public Works at: (206) 870-6581.

The City of Des Moines
21650 – 11th Avenue South
Des Moines, WA 98198-6317

Preserving Our Pavement



City of Des Moines
21650 – 11th Avenue South
Des Moines, WA 98198-6317

Why Should We Try To Preserve Our Pavement?

All roads deteriorate over time due to traffic and environmental factors. The cost to improve the surface of a road over time increases. By maintaining the road surfaces that are in good condition, we can prolong the life of the asphalt surface.

What Methods Are Available To Preserve The Pavement?

For road sections that are in good condition, we can seal cracks or do a chip seal. To seal cracks, a line of joint sealant is placed over the large cracks. A chip seal involves placing a mixture of small rocks and liquid asphalt evenly over the pavement. This gives the road an extra layer of material and protects against wear of the original pavement.

Road sections that are in poor condition require an overlay. This method involves removal and replacement of the top layer of asphalt. Occasionally, a road must be completely reconstructed. Overlays and reconstruction are the most expensive pavement preservation options.

The City of Des Moines has a limited budget to maintain roadways. The money can either rebuild one roadway or preserve many roads that are presently in good condition. Maintaining roads in good condition is often the most cost effective, long-term strategy. In the future, we will be able to rebuild some roads that are in bad condition while still taking care of the roads in good condition.

How Does The City Choose Roads To Rehabilitate?

The City inspects the roads on a regular basis. From this inspection, a rating between 0-100 is given to the road surface based on different types of wear. This information is put into a database and then analyzed. Based on the budget we have, and these inspection ratings, roadway sections and pavement applications are chosen that will be the most cost effective course of action.

For 2003, we have decided to perform chip seals on a variety of roadway segments. Chip seals are only effective on roads that are already in good condition. The City has chosen this path in order to maintain the streets that are already good instead of trying to play “catch up” with the roads that are in poor condition. This method is inexpensive and has been very effective on similar road surfaces in other cities.

The roads that are in poor condition are important to the City too. After we have taken care of the roads that are in good condition, we will be able to focus our attention on rebuilding some of the roads that have deteriorated.